

Exhibit A

Copy of Claims as Originally Filed on November 15, 2001

Claim 1. Tissue removal apparatus comprising:

a flexible drill shaft;
a cutting tip mounted on said shaft for cutting tissue;
means for transmitting motion to said shaft to move said cutting tip against the tissue to cut tissue fragments from the tissue; and
means for removing the tissue fragments along said shaft by suction to a location outside the body while cutting.

Claims 2-35 were cancelled by Preliminary Amendment.

Claim 36. A surgical procedure to be conducted on a patient, said surgical procedure comprising the steps of removing tissue from a first location in the patient's body, separating one or more components from at least a portion of the tissue removed from the patient's body, and implanting the tissue at a second location in the patient's body after separating one or more components from at least a portion of the tissue.

Claim 37. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of separating one or more components from the tissue removed from the patient's body includes centrifuging at least a portion of the tissue removed from the patient's body.

Claim 38. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 further including the step of adding a substance to the body tissue after separating one or more components from the body tissue and prior to implanting the body tissue at a second location in the patient's body.

Claim 39. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes cutting body tissue at

the first location and moving the body tissue away from the first location under the influence of suction.

Claim 40. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 39 wherein said step of cutting body tissue includes rotating a cutting tool under the influence of force transmitted through an elongated member which is at least partially enclosed by a tubular member, said step of moving the body tissue away from the first location under the influence of suction includes moving body tissue cut by the rotating cutting tool along the tubular member under the influence of suction.

Claim 41. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of implanting the tissue at the second location includes inserting a cannula into the patient's body, moving a surgical instrument through the cannula, removing tissue from the second location, said step of removing tissue from the second location includes using the surgical instrument inserted through the cannula, and, thereafter, performing said step of inserting tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body at the second location in the patient's body.

Claim 42. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes removing blood from the first location in the patient's body, said step of separating one or more components from the tissue removed from the patient's body includes separating one or more components from blood removed from the patient's body, said step of implanting the tissue at a second location in the patient's body includes implanting one or more components of the blood removed from the patient's body.

Claim 43. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from the first location in the patient's body includes removing blood and other tissue from the first location in the patient's body, said step of separating one or more components from the tissue removed from the patient's body includes separating at least a first component from blood removed from the patient's body, said step of

implanting the tissue at a second location in the patient's body includes implanting the blood removed from the patient's body after removing at least the first component from the blood and implanting at least a portion of the other tissue removed from the patient's body.

Claim 44. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes removing at least blood from the first location, said step of separating one or more components from the tissue removed from the patient's body includes removing at least a first component from the blood removed from the patient's body, said step of implanting the tissue at the second location includes implanting at least the blood from which at least the first component has been removed.

Claim 45. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes removing blood and other tissue from the first location, said step of separating one or more components from the tissue removed from the patient's body includes centrifuging the blood and other tissue removed from the first location, said step of implanting the tissue at a second location is performed after centrifuging the blood and other tissue removed from the first location.

Claim 46. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes removing blood and other tissue from the first location, said set of separating one or more components from the tissue removed from the patient's body includes filtering the blood and other tissue removed from the first location, said step of implanting tissue at a second location is performed after filtering the blood and other body tissue removed from the first location.

Claim 47. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes removing blood and other tissue from the first location, said step of separating one or more components from

the tissue removed from the patient's body includes moving the blood and other tissue removed from the first location into a trap, said step of implanting tissue at a second location is performed after moving the blood and other tissue removed from the first location into the trap.

Claim 48. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 further including the step of packing tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body to form a body of tissue, said step of implanting the tissue at a second location in the patient's body includes placing the body of packed tissue at the second location in the patient's body.

Claim 49. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body includes inserting a first tubular member into a patient's body and moving the body tissue from the first location in the patient's body through the first tubular member to a location outside of the patient's body, said step of implanting the tissue at a second location in the patient's body includes inserting a second tubular member into the patient's body and moving the tissue through the second tubular member.

Claim 50. A surgical procedure to be conducted on a patient, said surgical procedure comprising the steps of inserting a first tubular member into the patient's body, moving body tissue from a first location in the patient's body through the first tubular member to a location outside of the patient's body, inserting a second tubular member into the patient's body, and moving at least a portion of the body tissue through the second tubular member to a second location in the patient's body.

Claim 51. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 further including the step of separating one or more components from at least a portion of the body tissue moved through the first tubular member prior to performance of said step of moving body tissue through the second tubular member to the second location in the patient's body.

Claim 52. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 further including the step of centrifuging at least a portion of the body tissue moved through the first tubular member to separate one or more components from the body tissue prior to performing said step of moving the body tissue through the second tubular member.

Claim 53. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 further including the step of adding a substance to the body tissue after moving the body tissue from the first location through the first tubular member to a location outside of the patient's body and prior to moving the body tissue through the second tubular member.

Claim 54. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 wherein said step of moving the body tissue from the first location through the first tubular member includes moving the body tissue through the first tubular member under the influence of suction.

Claim 55. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 further including the step of cutting body tissue at the first location with a cutting tool which is driven under the influence of force transmitted through the first tubular member.

Claim 56. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 further including the step of moving a surgical instrument through the second tubular member, and removing tissue from the second location with the surgical instrument prior to moving body tissue through the second tubular member to the second location.

Claim 57. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 wherein said step of moving body tissue from a first location in the patient's body through the first tubular member includes moving blood from the first location in a patient's body through the first tubular member, said surgical procedure further includes separating one or more components from the blood, said step of moving body tissue through the second tubular member to the second location in the patient's body includes moving the blood from which one or more components have been removed through the second tubular member to the second location in the patient's body.

Claim 58. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 wherein said step of moving tissue from the first location in the patient's body through a first tubular member includes moving blood and pieces of other tissue through the first tubular member, said surgical procedure further includes filtering the blood and other tissue moved through the first tubular member, said step of moving body tissue through the second tubular member is performed after filtering the blood and other tissue.

Claim 59. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 wherein said step of moving tissue from the first location in the patient's body through a first tubular member includes moving blood and pieces of other tissue through the first tubular member, said surgical procedure further includes moving the blood and other tissue into a trap, said step of moving body tissue through the second tubular member is performed after moving the blood and other tissue into a trap.

Claim 60. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 50 further including the step of packing tissue moved through the first tubular member to form a body of tissue, said step of moving the body tissue through the second tubular member includes moving the body of packed tissue through the second tubular member.

Claim 61. A surgical procedure to be conducted on a patient, said surgical procedure comprising the step of removing blood and other body tissue from a first location in the patient's body, shaping the blood and other body tissue to form a body of tissue having a desired shape, and implanting the body of tissue at a second location in the patient's body.

Claim 62. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 further including the step of separating one or more components from at least a portion of the blood removed from the first location in the patient's body prior to shaping the blood and other body tissue to form a body of tissue having a desired shape.

Claim 63. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 further including the step of separating one or more components from at least a portion of the other body tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body prior to shaping the blood and other body tissue to form a body of tissue having a desired shape.

Claim 64. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 further including the step of separating one or more components from at least a portion of the blood and other body tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body prior to shaping the blood and other body tissue to form a body of tissue having a desired shape.

Claim 65. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 wherein said step of implanting the body tissue at the second location includes changing the shape of the body tissue.

Claim 66. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 wherein said step of removing blood and other body tissue from a first location in the patient's body includes moving the blood and other body tissue along a first tubular member, said step of implanting the body of tissue at a second location in a patient's body includes moving the body of tissue along a second tubular member.

Claim 67. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 further including the step of centrifuging the blood prior to performing said step of shaping the blood and other body tissue.

Claim 68. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 61 further including the step of centrifuging the other body tissue prior to performing said step of shaping the blood and other body tissue.

Claim 69. A surgical procedure to be conducted on a patient, said surgical procedure comprising the steps of cutting body tissue at a first location in a patient's body, moving blood and other body tissue along a first tubular member in a direction

away from the first location in the patient's body to a location outside of the patient's body, separating one or more components from at least one of the blood and other body tissue at a location outside of the patient's body, thereafter, moving the blood and other body tissue along a second tubular member in a direction toward a second location in the patient's body, and implanting the blood and other body tissue at the second location in the patient's body.

Claim 70. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 wherein said step of separating one or more components from at least one of the blood and other body tissue includes centrifuging the blood.

Claim 71. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 wherein said step of separating one or more components from at least one of the blood and other body tissue includes centrifuging the other body tissue.

Claim 72. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 wherein said step of separating one or more components from at least one of the blood and other body tissue includes centrifuging the blood and other body tissue.

Claim 73. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 further including the step of adding a substance to the blood and other body tissue prior to moving the blood and other body tissue along the second tubular member.

Claim 74. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 wherein said step of moving the blood and other body tissue along a first tubular member includes moving the blood and other body tissue under the influence of suction.

Claim 75. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 wherein said step of cutting body tissue at the first location in a patient's body includes rotating a cutting tool under the influence of force transmitting through the first tubular member.

Claim 76. A surgical procedure as set forth in claim 69 further including the steps of moving a surgical instrument through the second tubular member and removing the tissue from the second location before moving the blood and other body tissue along the second tubular member.